

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 5672

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MORG, XM, BL
SUBJECT: MILITARY TRAINING FOR THE BOLIVIAN ARMED FORCES

REFS: (A) STATE 166382, (B) STATE 180481

1. THE FOLLOWING THREE PARAGRAPHS ANSWER THE THREE QUESTIONS POSED
IN REFTEL A.

2. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY SETTING UP A
"SCHOOL FOR THE AMERICAS" IN ARGENTINA. THE BOLIVIAN ARMED FORCES
PARTICIPATE IN THE US INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAIN-
ING (IMET) PROGRAM. IMET IS A GRANT AID PROGRAM THAT PAYS ALL
COSTS INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION AND LIVING ALLOWANCES FOR STUDENTS
OF THE BOLIVIA ARMED FORCES TO ATTEND ALL US MILITARY TRAINING
COURSES OFFERED IN THE CANAL ZONE AND THE US. FOR FISCAL YEARS
78 AND 79, BOLIVIA IS AUTHORIZED \$750,000 UNDER IMET. REAL TRAIN-
ING PROVIDED UNDER IMET HAS DIMINISHED AS A RESULT OF RISING
COURSE COSTS AND TRAVEL AND LIVING ALLOWANCES. ADDITIONAL TRAIN-
ING CAN BE BOUGHT BY BOLIVIA UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES
(FMS) PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH COSTS ARE PROHIBITIVE AND THE BOLIVIAN
ARMED FORCES HAVE NOT BOUGHT TRAINING UNDER THIS PROGRAM IN
RECENT YEARS. IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THEY WOULD LOOK
TO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR ADDITIONAAL TRAINING NOT FUNDED UNDER
IMET.

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 05672 192028Z

3. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, BOLIVIA HAS MADE NO EFFORT TO ESTABLISH
NEW MILITARY SHCOOLS, PARTICULARLY OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE US
ARMY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS. BOLIVIA DOES NOT HAVE THE FUNDS
NOR THE EXPERTISE TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A PROGRAM.

4. OUR INTERPRETATION OF A "MILITARY EXCHANGE PROGRAM" IS
WHEN COUNTRIES ACTUALLY EXCHANGE PERSONNEL FOR TRAINING AND/OR

ACTIVE DUTY FOR A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME, USUALLY A WEEK OR TWO YEARS. THE BOLIVIAN ARMED FORCES ARE KNOWN TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE: THE BOLIVIAN NAVY HAS ON OCCASION SENT A MIDDLE-GRADE OFFICER TO TAIWAN FOR A THREE-MONTH ORIENTATION TOUR/MANAGEMENT TRAINING VISIT. A TAIWANESE MIDDLE-GRADE NAVAL OFFICER IS ATTENDING A TWO-YEAR NAVAL COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COURSE IN LA PAZ. THE FOLLOWING TRAINING IS OR HAS BEEN CONDUCTED FOR THE BOLIVIAN ARMED FORCES BY OTHER NATIONS:

A. THE LARGE ARGENTINE MILITARY MISSION IN BOLIVIA IS VERY INFLUENTIAL IN THE INSTRUCTION AT THE NAVAL ACADEMY, NAVAL GENERAL STAFF SCHOOL, NAVY APPLICATION SCHOOL AND NAVY TECHNICAL SCHOOL. THEY EITHER PROVIDE OR MONITOR ALL INSTRUCTION AND THE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL. THE ARGENTINES ALSO PROVIDE SMALLER INSTRUCTOR TEAMS TO THE BOLIVIAN ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE AND TO THE AIR FORCE MILITARY ACADEMY. (US PRESENCE AT THESE SCHOOLS WAS ELIMINATED WITH THE MILGP REDUCTION.)

B. THE NAVAL COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF SCHOOL, A TWO-YEAR PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE-GRADE OFFICERS WHO WILL BE ASSIGNED TO GENERAL STAFF POSITIONS, INCLUDES TWO WEEKS AT-SEA TRAINING IN ARGENTINA.

C. THE NAVAL APPLICATION SCHOOL IS A ONE YEAR TECHNICAL COURSE FOR OFFICERS WHICH INCLUDES TWO WEEKS OF TRAINING WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LA PAZ 05672 192028Z

NAVY IN ARGENTINA.

D. WARRENT OFFICERS AND NCO'S ATTEND THE NAVAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL TO ACQUIRE A SPECIALTY IN MARINE ENGINES, ELECTRICITY, CONSTRUCTION AND INTELLIGENCE PRIMARILY. SOME TRAINING IN ARGENTINA IS INCLUDED IN THE COURSE.

E. SOME COMPANY GRADE OFFICERS OF THE BOLIVIAN ARMY HAVE RECEIVED RANGER (LANCEROS) TRAINING IN COLUMBIA.

F. SOME BOLIVIAN NAVY PERSONNEL HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING IN VENEZUELA; THE CREW OF THE OCEAN FREIGHTER DONATED BY VENEZUELA, WAS TRAINED FOR NEARLY SIX MONTHS IN THATCOUNTRY PRIOR TO TURNING THE SHIP OVER TO BOLIVIA.

H. ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES (ARMY AND AIR FORCE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF, ESCUELA DE ALTOS ESTUDIOS (NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE) ROUTINELY MAKE ORIENTATION VISITS TO OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. SIMILAR VISITS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE US IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, IMET FUNDS ARE NOW INADEQUATE TO FUND SUCH TOURS AND THE BOLIVIANS HAVE NOT OFFERED TO PAY FOR SUCH TRIPS.

I. ARMY FIELD GRADE OFFICERS HAVE ROUTINELY ATTENDED THE
ARGENTINE ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE.
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